

Door County Beekeepers Club
Collins Learning Center at Crossroads
March 22, 2022, 6:30p.m.

Members Present: Max Martin(co-chair), Mark Lentz(co-chair), Dennis Marquardt, Gretchen Schmelzer, Joe Binard, Lisa O'Dell, Jim Bater, Mike Witt, Sue Doubler, Joan Theys, Steve and Donna Parkansky, Cindy Easley, Debby Ulrich, Randy and Lisa Manges, Paul Kenyon, Tim Iding, Joel Hatfield, Doug Otopalik

Other Guests: Len and Sandra Arsenault, McKenzie Krohn, Jacob Bertrand

Welcome by Max Martin and Mark Lentz co-chairs

Introductions/updates/questions by members and guests and review:

- members have already placed pollen patties in hives,
- Mite counts and treatment in the next couple of weeks
- use shop vacs to remove dead bees, clean vac before rot sets in
- Sturgeon Bay is the only community in Door County requiring a bee permit
- buying and replacing foundations is a lot easier than trying to clean, cleaning or replacing should be done every 2-3 years,

Program: "Getting Started and Equipment" by Mark Lentz

- a. first considerations before starting include locating hive near a wind block, face hive to SE, and no standing water
- b. Langstoth Hives
 - Bases should be 13-15' off ground and pitched forward for water drainage, have screen for ventilation, a bottom board can be used on cold nights and when vapping for mites,
 - Brood Boxes could be 8 or 10 frames in a medium or large size box, Once bees are introduced to brood box, queen starts to lay in 3-5 days depending on whether or not foundations has comb, so check for presence of eggs and queen starting in about 3 days, when 6-7 frames are starting to fill up, add second brood box to avoid swarming, can use 1:1 sugar water spray on frames/foundations to help promote comb development, rotating brood boxes in the Spring to get queen on bottom, queens will move from bottom up during the season,
 - Feeders types include front entrance (1 qt), frame feeder (1 qt), tray feeder (3-4 weeks of food), top "ice cream" feeder, personal choice of size and style,
 - Excluders are used to keep queen in brood boxes and to reduce debris in harvested honey
 - Entrance reducers are used to reduce infestations and predators and control ventilation
 - Water Source, whether bowls, bird bathes, or other may not be necessary because there are so many natural water sources in Door County. If you use a water source bees tend to want "unclean" water,
 - Honey Supers- once bees start to fill out second brood box, add excluder and first honey super box, box size will effect weight of filled box and ease of managing during harvest, control your harvest quantity by the number of supers stacked, a 1-10 frame box can weigh 60-70 pounds,
- c. Personal Protection include: smoker, suit, gloves. Smoker fuel could be cedar chips, lavender, burlap. It is recommended suits have good seal(zipper) between hood and jacket to reduce the possibility of bees getting into suit. Leather gloves with ventilating mesh are good for heavy work, and nitrile gloves for work requiring more dexterity.
- d. Other topics include : types of bees (Italian, Russian, Carolinian) available through purchasing from Max Martin, recommend larger 3 lb boxes of bees which is helpful in keeping queen warmer in our cool Springs, main predator is the skunk which is why we have hive off the ground, use cinnamon powder around the inner border of the boxes, discussed potentials

for being stung, allergy development, and use of Benadryl and Epipens. Just because you don't think you have an allergy to bees, does not mean you can't develop an allergy.

Other Things: \$20 yearly dues can be paid at meetings or with application found on our website. Dues go to support our programs, common use equipment, and community outreach.

Thank you Mark for another great program.

Next Meeting is April 19th at the Crossroads. "Introducing Bees to Your Hive" and visiting a hive by Max Martin